



12-26-01

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C.  
20231, on December 17, 2001

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Inventor:	Brad E. Hossler	)	
		)	
Serial No.:	09/993,386	)	Examiner: N/A
		)	
Attorney Docket No.	29947/92261	)	
		)	Art Unit: 3613
Filing Date:	November 16, 2001	)	
		)	
Title:	ROPE LOCKING DEVICE WITH	)	
	AUTOMATIC SAFETY MECHANISM	)	

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
BOX PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

The following Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in regard to the above-captioned patent application filed on November 16, 2001. Please enter the following amendments before examination on the merits. A Marked-Up Version and Clean Copy of the Specification, Claims and FIGS. are enclosed.

**In the Specification**

- On page 1, line 13, please change "Figure" to --FIG.--
- On page 2, line 7, please change "griping" to --gripping-- after "the" and after "few"
- On page 2, line 10, please change "griping" to --gripping--
- On page 2, line 11, please change "griping" to --gripping--
- On page 2, line 17, please change "Fig." to --FIG.--
- On page 2, line 19, please change "Fig." to --FIG.--
- On page 2, line 20, please change "Figs." to --FIGs.--
- On page 2, line 21, please change "Figs." to --FIGs.--
- On page 2, line 22, please change "Figs." to --FIGs.--

On page 2, line 23, please change "Figs" to --FIGs.--

On page 2, line 27, please change "Fig." to --FIG.--

On page 3, line 25, please replace "22" with --23--

On page 3, line 27, please replace "plce" with --place--

On page 5, line 15, please insert --and linkage pins 148 and 149-- after "104"

#### **In the Claims**

On page 7, claim 1, line 19, replace "translates" with --translate--

#### **In the FIGS**

In FIG. 2 replace "116" with --148-- and "117" with --149--

In FIGs. 3a, 3b and 3c, please delete numbers 64-67 and their corresponding structures.

Marked up and clean versions of substitute pages and FIGS. are appended.

#### **Support for the Amendments**

On pages 1 and 2, "gripping" is obviously a typographical error for "gripping" and FIG. is substituted for format consistency

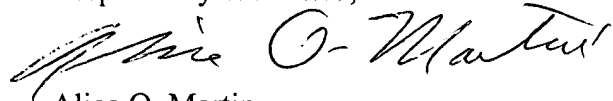
On page 3, "23" is corrected and clearly shown on the drawings. In context, on page 3, line 23 is easily identified. "plce" is obviously a typographical error that should be "place".

In FIG. 2, number 116 and 117 do not match the elements described in the text and other FIGS. e.g. 1, as "116" and "117." The elements in FIG. 2 erroneously labelled "116" and "117" are amended to have new numbers 148 and 149. Their description is also added to page 5, line 15 of the specification.

In FIG. 3a, 3b and 3c the numbers 64-67 and their corresponding parts are deleted because the parts are not discussed in the text, they are leftovers from an old draft of FIG. 3 which was erroneously filed instead of the most recent FIG 3.

No fees are believed due at this time, however, please charge any deficiencies or credit any overpayments to deposit account number 10-0435 with reference to our attorney docket number (29947/92261).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice O. Martin".

Alice O. Martin

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